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Public Health Reports

Treasury Department, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Published in accordance with act of Congress approved February 15, 1893.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 22, 1898.

No. 29.

UNITED STATES.

*Copy of correspondence relative to vessels under supervision of the War Department transporting supplies and troops from infected ports.**

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, D. C., May 31, 1898.

SIR: I have to invite your attention to the precautions deemed necessary by this Department to prevent the introduction of yellow fever from Cuba during the coming summer and fall through vessels engaged in transporting troops and supplies from the ports of New Orleans, Mobile, and Port Tampa. Each summer and fall, even under ordinary conditions, the greatest care is exercised by the National, State, and local quarantine authorities with regard to vessels entering the southern ports of the United States from Cuban and other tropical ports, and it is believed to be practicable to enforce, with regard to these transport vessels, the regular quarantine regulations which, by the act of Congress approved February 15, 1893, it is the duty of this Department to enforce.

I have, therefore, to request that the proper officers of your Department be directed to instruct masters of these transport vessels that they are forbidden to bring refugees from Cuba on their return to ports within the United States, and are also absolutely forbidden to bring any bundles of clothing, baggage, or other merchandise capable of conveying infection which is not strictly military in character. This provision will not only serve to protect the ports of the United States from yellow fever infection, but will also tend to prevent the infection of the transports themselves, which, if infected, might convey the disease to

*For correspondence with the Hon. Secretary of the Navy as regards vessels under the control of that Department, see Nos. 20 and 24 of this volume of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS, pages 497, 498, 606, and 607.

the troops en route to Cuba, as it is supposed these transports will each make a number of trips back and forth.

I have further to request that an order be issued requiring the masters of these transport vessels to submit to the regular quarantine examination and necessary restraints on arriving at any port in the United States. An order to this effect (copy of which is inclosed) has already been issued by Major-General Shafter at Tampa, Fla., and it is requested that a similar order be issued through the proper officer at New Orleans and Mobile, or at other ports where troops may embark.

Respectfully, yours,

L. J. GAGE,
Secretary.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., July 16, 1898.

SIR: Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of May 31 last, inviting attention to the precautions deemed necessary by the Treasury Department to prevent the introduction of yellow fever from Cuba during the coming summer and fall through vessels engaged in transporting troops and supplies from the ports of New Orleans, Mobile, and Port Tampa, and requesting that the proper officers of this Department be directed to instruct masters of transport vessels that they are forbidden to bring any refugees from Cuba on their return to ports within the United States, etc., and also requesting that an order be issued requiring the masters of these transport vessels to submit to the regular quarantine examination and necessary restraints upon arriving at any port of the United States, I have the honor to inform you that on the 24th ultimo copies of your communication were referred to the commanding general, Department of the East, the commanding general, United States forces, Miami, Fla.; the commanding general, United States forces, Jacksonville, Fla.; the commanding general, United States forces, New Orleans, La., and the commanding general, United States forces, Tampa, Fla., to issue the necessary instructions from their headquarters to carry out the wishes of the Treasury Department as indicated in your letter.

On the 6th instant the commanding general, Seventh Army Corps, Jacksonville, Fla., reported that copies of the papers referred to had been furnished to the United States Marine-Hospital surgeons at Miami and Jacksonville, Fla., for their information and guidance.

Very respectfully,

H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant General, for the Secretary of War.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Reports to the Supervising Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

Smallpox in Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., *July 13, 1898.*

SIR: Since my last report of June 23, 1898, smallpox has been reported at Dunbar, Fayette County, 6 cases, confined to one house. Origin is unknown. House quarantined.

Yours, very truly,

BENJAMIN LEE, M. D.,
Secretary, State Board of Health.